

Application No. 10/002,819
Amendment due November 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2006

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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 21-23, 27-31, 35-36 and 40-43 are pending in the application. Claims 24-26, 32-34, 37-39 and 44-46 have been canceled. Claims 21, 29, 35 and 42 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to the double occurrence of the word "comprising" in line 2, of claim 35. Accordingly, claim 35 has been amended to delete the double occurrence of "comprising".

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Amin, U.S. Patent No. 6,014,559 (hereinafter "Amin"), in view U.S. Patent No. 6,871,063 (hereinafter "Schiffer"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. In order to expedite examination, allowable subject matter has been incorporated into the independent claims. Therefore, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicates that claims 26, 34, 39 and 46 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly,

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independent claims 21, 29, 35 and 42 have been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable claims 26, 34, 39 and 46 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 21, 29, 35 and 42 are now in condition for allowance.

The Dependent Claims

In addition, the remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claims 21, 29, 35 and 42, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from amended independent claims 21, 29, 35 and 42, which are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 621-7140 in the Washington, D.C. area.

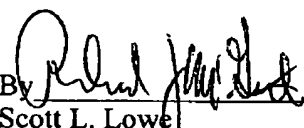
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1602 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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